



ADVOCACY FOR BAR LICENCE FREEDOM (ABLIF)

C/O Democrats Solicitors, Suite D89/115, 3rd Floor, Area 11 Mall, Garki - Abuja, Nigeria
Email: ablifforjustice@gmail.com

Tel:

National Convener: +234 8168 292 549,
National Secretary: +234 7068 535 201



8th day of June, 2026.

The Honourable President,
Court of Appeal of Nigeria,
Headquarters,
Abuja.

My Lord,

**RE: JUDGMENT OF THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA IN SUIT
NO. FHC/ABJ/CS/2241/2025: CHRISTABEL ZOE AYUK & 11 ORS. V.
INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
& 4 ORS.**

A HUMBLE REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE

1. I write in my capacity as the National Convener of Advocacy for Bar Licence Freedom (ABLIF), a body committed to the promotion of the rule of law, constitutionalism and fidelity to the provisions of the Legal Practitioners Act.
2. May I respectfully bring to the attention of Your Lordship *the judgment of the Federal High Court, Abuja Judicial Division, delivered on the 8th day of May, 2026 by Honourable Justice B.F.M. Nyako in Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/2241/2025: CHRISTABEL ZOE AYUK & 11 ORS. V. INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION & 4 ORS.*
3. In the said judgment, *the Court, among other consequential pronouncements, declared Rules 10, 11 and 12 of the Rules of ... Standing for Justice and Bar Freedom.*

Professional Conduct for Legal Practitioners, 2023, void to the extent of their inconsistency with the Legal Practitioners Act.

4. The Court further reaffirmed the supremacy of the Legal Practitioners Act as the principal legislation governing legal practice in Nigeria and held that subsidiary instruments or regulatory provisions inconsistent with the Act cannot stand.

5. The significance of the judgment extends beyond the immediate parties, particularly regarding the practical administration of legal practice and filing procedures within courts throughout the Federation.

6. It is our respectful understanding that the effect of the judgment is that restrictions or administrative impediments founded solely upon the impugned provisions declared inconsistent with the Legal Practitioners Act can no longer enjoy legal efficacy unless and until the judgment is set aside by a superior court or otherwise varied by due process of law.

7. Section 287(3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), provides as follows:

'The decisions of the Federal High Court, a National Industrial Court, a High Court and of all other courts established by this Constitution shall be enforced in any part of the Federation by all authorities and persons, and by courts with subordinate jurisdiction to that of the Federal High Court, a National Industrial Court, a High Court and those other courts, respectively.'

Respectfully, My Lord, it is my humble opinion, that, the constitutional command is both mandatory and imperative.

8. In the light of the foregoing, we respectfully invite the attention of Your Lordship to the practical implications of the judgment for court administration, particularly in relation to legal practitioners who may present processes for filing without NBA seals or other requirements founded upon the provisions affected by the judgment.

9. It is our respectful request that appropriate administrative guidance be considered, where deemed necessary, to ensure that no legal practitioner is denied access to the filing process or suffers administrative disadvantage by reason only of non-compliance with provisions which have been declared void to the extent of their inconsistency with the Legal Practitioners Act.

10. For the avoidance of doubt, our position is that proof of payment of the statutory Annual Practising Fee payable under the Legal Practitioners Act ought to remain sufficient evidence of entitlement to practise pending any contrary pronouncement of a superior court.

11. This request is made in utmost good faith and in furtherance of the constitutional obligation imposed upon all authorities and persons to give effect to subsisting judgments of courts of competent jurisdiction.

12. Kindly accept the assurances of our highest esteem and respect.

Yours faithfully,



HAMEED AJIBOLA JIMOH, ESQ.,

National Convener,

FOR: ADVOCACY FOR BAR LICENCE FREEDOM (ABLIF).



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3. In the said judgment, ***the Court, among other consequential pronouncements, declared Rules 10, 11 and 12 of the Rules of Professional Conduct for Legal Practitioners, 2023, void to the extent of their inconsistency with the Legal Practitioners Act.***

4. The Court further reaffirmed the supremacy of the Legal Practitioners Act as the principal legislation governing legal practice in Nigeria and held that subsidiary instruments or regulatory provisions inconsistent with the Act cannot stand.

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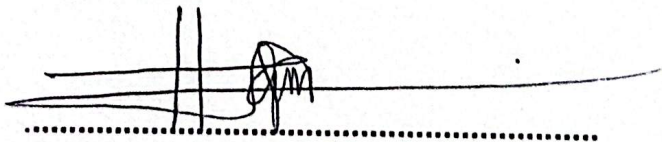
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hameed Ajibola Jimoh', is written over a solid horizontal line. Below this line is a dotted horizontal line.

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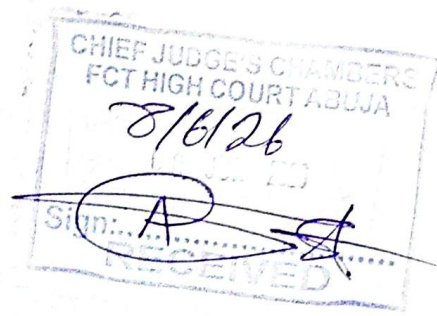


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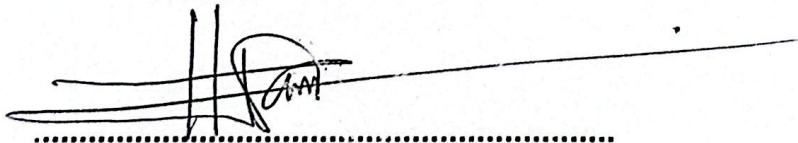
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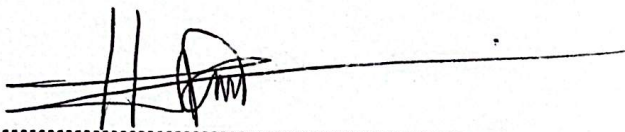
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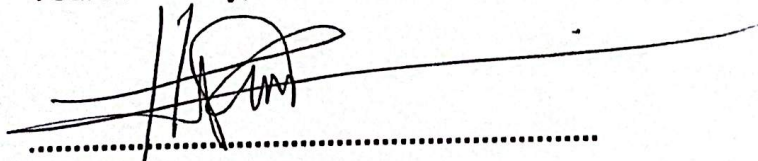
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